

lotions (*e. g.*, the lead and opium wash), and later the plaster-of-Paris immovable dressing; it being thought better "to defer complete encasement in plaster until after the primary swelling has subsided." Many of such of the readers of this book as have treated a considerable number of these cases will beg leave to differ. Certainly nothing can be more comfortable to the patient and less troublesome to the surgeon, nothing more likely to secure the desired repair *tuto, citoque jucunde* than an early and properly applied "stirrup-dressing," held in place by bands here and there, or, if preferred, by a roller extending from the toes to the middle of the thigh. If the fracture was in his own leg, it is very possible that the author would hardly be willing to lie for ten days on the flat of his back with the limb in a fracture-box waiting for the subsidence of an inflammatory swelling that ten chances to one might have been prevented by an early application of an immovable dressing, a dressing that by no means necessitates complete encasement of the limb. The paragraphs on "fractures at the lower end of the leg" present clearly and succinctly the chief features of these very common and troublesome injuries. Here again the use of a fracture-box for a week or ten days is advised, and very properly too, "if there is much swelling, ecchymosis, and tenderness, if blebs have formed;" but in a considerable proportion of cases, especially of those seen early, there will be no such symptoms developed if complete reduction of the displacement is made and fixation of the fragments secured by immobilization of the leg and foot. Here, as in other joint-fractures, hours if not minutes are of value, and it is such injuries, perhaps, that have given rise to, certainly give reason for, the popular idea that fractures must be set *at once*. In cases of simple fracture of the astragalus, with displacement of a fragment, immediate removal of the latter is thought fully justified (as also of the rest of the bone if necessary); and in compound fracture the same course is unhesitatingly advised. Such procedure is without doubt the proper one in hospital or city practice, but in more favoured sections of the country where the patient can have the benefit, not only of careful nursing, but of the best hygienic surroundings, both part and life can undoubtedly be frequently saved.

The mechanical execution of the work is what might have been expected, knowing the publishers, and the plates (of which there are three hundred and sixty) are in unusually large number new and well executed. A very few typographical errors, some of them in proper names, have been noticed, but none of any special importance.

Taken all in all "*Stimson on Fractures*" is an excellent work, well deserving of and repaying careful study, and is a real addition to professional literature.

P. S. C.

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ART. XXII.—*Lectures on Orthopedic Surgery and Diseases of the Joints.* By LEWIS A. SAYRE, M.D., Professor of Orthopedic and Clinical Surgery in Bellevue Hospital Medical College, etc. etc. Second edition, revised, and greatly enlarged, with 324 illustrations. 8vo. pp. xx., 569. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1883.

IN the number of this Journal for July, 1876, we expressed the very high opinion we entertained of the value of this book, and it gives us

pleasure to reiterate that opinion now. It is a book of expedients rather than of dry pathological details, although this foundation of treatment is by no means neglected. On turning over its pages there will be found those practical applications of the healing art which are acquired by extended experience, and which prove of inestimable value to the general practitioner.

The work has been very thoroughly revised and the later experience of the author incorporated in it. The haste with which it was originally issued led to many carelessnesses of expression, which in this second edition have been almost entirely removed, to the great literary improvement of the volume. A large number of new illustrations have been added. Conspicuous among these, both by its position as the frontispiece, and the important teaching it conveys, is the lithograph exhibiting the appearances presented after an excision of the head of the femur. The operation was done in September, 1875, upon a child two years and nine months old. The wound healed almost perfectly, but waxy degeneration of the viscera ensued, and the child died in March, 1878. Upon examination it was found "that not only was the bone reproduced very nearly in form and size, as well as length, of the opposite one, but also that true articular cartilage had been newly formed, and the motions of the joint were quite free."

It is in connection with resection of the hip-joint for coxalgia that Dr. Sayre has achieved some of his notable triumphs, and has attracted deserved attention. It has been largely through his boldness, and his enthusiastic advocacy of it, that this operation has been proved to be comparatively free from danger. In a table compiled by his son, Dr. Sayre's experience with this operation in seventy-two cases is presented to the reader. In the former edition but fifty-nine cases were tabulated. Out of the entire number now scheduled, recovery is stated to have followed in sixty-three cases, while nine died from the exhausting effects of hip disease. Forty-seven were alive when this volume was prepared, and a summary analysis of the results makes a very favourable showing. From our own experience with, and observation of this operation, we have learned to regard it as one but rarely fatal, as very generally prolonging life, but as not ordinarily attended with such satisfactory ultimate results as Dr. Sayre has recorded in this volume.

Since the publication of the first edition of these lectures, the method of treating spinal curvatures by extension, and a fixed jacket, then a novel procedure, has been largely developed by Dr. Sayre, and brought fully before the profession by other publications and repeated demonstrations. The favourable opinion of the method we expressed when we first reviewed this book, has been abundantly borne out by the experience of the profession since. The trial which we then proposed to give the proceeding has been repeatedly made since, and always with satisfaction. The principle underlying the treatment originated by Dr. Sayre is the correct one, and the profession and very many of the laity are indebted to him to a degree which can hardly be exaggerated. Some surgeons prefer to use other material for the construction of the jacket, merely using it to obtain an accurate cast of the extended body, upon which a leather, poro-plastic, or other jacket can be fitted, but the principle is the one with which the profession has become acquainted through the enthusiastic efforts of Dr. Sayre. For ourselves we have been abundantly satisfied with the plaster jacket. Objection has been made that it is dirty, but we have found that

with reasonable care tolerable cleanliness can be preserved. Then the application is so easy, and the material so cheap, that the renewal of the plaster corset provides a ready remedy. We have known one to remain on for six months, and though this is an extreme length of time and certainly greater than is desirable, it goes to show that when properly applied, and properly attended to afterwards, it provides as nearly permanent a form of dressing as we can well hope to obtain. Especially is this the case in growing children. Of course some other substance may be found to answer, and as we have said, there are several such in constant use which give satisfaction; but inasmuch as the plaster roller can be applied by any careful physician, without recourse to the aid of instrument-makers, and gives good results, extending over a considerable course of time at a very moderate cost, we are of the opinion that the plaster jacket is entitled to a long lease of life. Yet in this day of inventions it is quite possible some other, cleaner, and equally reliable substance may be found to be a desirable substitute for it, but we feel quite sure that the principles of treatment will remain unchanged.

The method of applying extension to the cervical portion of the spinal column, by what Dr. Sayre calls his jury-mast, we have also repeatedly tested, and with marked advantage in suitable cases.

Dr. Sayre is careful to point out that while he uses a plaster corset in lateral curvature of the spine, it is only as an adjuvant to careful gymnastic exercise of the muscles. He only allows it to be worn during the daytime, as a comfort and aid to the weakened muscles. As the aid of the instrument-maker is required to complete this corset, the leather jacket seems to us to possess advantages in this class of cases.

The book has been considerably enlarged, the number of lectures having grown from twenty-nine to thirty-one, and, as before said, many new illustrations have been added. The index is also enlarged and improved. Indeed, the whole volume is an advance upon the first edition, both in style and material. It brings the subjects treated of in it up to the present time, and gives its author's latest and matured views. Records of personal experience, when honestly and fairly told, are always valuable, and as such this book is an important one. Of course Dr. Sayre is well known to be an enthusiastic man, and many will refuse to see things exactly as they appear to him, but it is the enthusiast who impresses those with whom he comes in contact, and to Dr. Sayre's enthusiasm the profession owes much.

Few books have the personality of their authors more forcibly impressed upon them than this one. This fact gives piquancy and interest to the volume, and the reader of it will rise from its perusal with the impression that its author has written of that he has had experience in, and that the extent of Dr. Sayre's experience gives weight to his opinions. Although not yet the complete treatise we have expected to see from the pen of the Bellevue Professor, and which we yet hope to see produced by him, the present volume is a step in that direction. Meantime every surgeon who has to do with the subjects of which it treats will do wisely to have this volume within easy reach upon his shelves.

S. A.